

## FREDERICK TAYLOR LORD, M.D.

By DONALD S. KING, M.D.

Three things we shall always remember about Dr. Fred Lord: his thoroughness, his honesty, and the twinkle in his eye.

No matter how great the pressure he could not be induced to take a sloppy medical history or write a careless paper. Always after he had collected the facts he sought for the truth as revealed in them. If the truth were new, so much the better. One did not always agree with the conclusions, but one never doubted that they had been reached after careful analysis and with the utmost sincerity, and that if he believed they called for action he would take it, come hell or high water.

His outstanding characteristics were so well brought out when he himself had lobar pneumonia in 1931 that I am sure he would not mind if I told you a bit of that story. He had had a bad cold for two weeks, and in the middle of the night experienced a real chill accompanied by severe aching in the legs. Now his consultation bag was one of the largest on record, but it was mainly for diagnosis and contained little that could be used for the relief of mere symptoms. How he chuckled at himself the next morning when he told me that the ache was so bad that he had had to wake the cook to get some of her aspirin! At my early morning visit pneumonia was suspected and various laboratory tests started. But soon after I left the house he coughed up bloody sputum which he himself dispatched in haste to his good friends at the State Bacteriology Laboratory and the City Hospital. By the time I returned he had already received the report that Type III pneumococcus had been found — and I shall never forget the picture as I entered the sick room. He was sitting up in bed with his own textbook on his lap opened to the page which gave the figures of the mortality in Type III pneumococcus pneumonia, and he was listening to his own back with the big dinner plate type of Bowles stethoscope which he always used. He looked up with that elfish smile which those who knew him often saw and explained that here was the best chance he had ever had to get the really early signs

of pneumonia. He had always regretted that being a consultant he was never called until the disease was well advanced.

So he reviewed the evidence. Here was lobar pneumonia caused by Type III pneumococcus in a man of fifty-seven. His own book told him that this situation was not to be taken lightly, so before he settled back on the pillows to let nature do her best, he insisted on talking to his lawyer and remaking his will and on arranging details as to his practice and the care of certain patients. This was serious business, but he regained the light touch during convalescence when he wrote from South Carolina of how for the first time he realized that pneumonia was a disease of the legs.

Such in homely anecdote was the man and the physician. Certain other facts should be added to more nearly complete the record.

Dr. Lord was one of the early clinical bacteriologists. He received his A.B. from Harvard in 1897 and his M.D. in 1900, and served as Medical House Officer at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1900 and 1901. Soon after this he arranged with Dr. J. Homer Wright for laboratory space and started the studies on the relation of bacteriology to clinical medicine which continued until he retired from the hospital in 1935. He was particularly interested in the influenza bacillus, actinomyces, and later the pneumococcus. It was natural therefore that when anti-pneumococcic serum was developed he should be particularly interested in it and work hard to study its action and later to make it available to physicians throughout the state.

After his start in bacteriology the next important step in his career was the publication of his textbook on "Diseases of the Bronchi, Lungs and Pleura." The first edition came out in 1915, and a thoroughly revised edition in 1925. A look at any page shows the tremendous amount of reading and clinical research that this book necessitated. The French and German literature had not the slightest terror for him.

In spite of his specialization in diseases of the lungs one of Dr. Lord's professional principles was that he must keep up with the new developments in all branches of internal medicine. For a long time he gave each year a post-graduate course in internal medicine and made himself review the year's accomplishments in other fields besides his own.

In World War I he was made a member of the American Red Cross Commission to Serbia and worked for some time in the Balkans.

All through his professional life Dr. Lord was closely affiliated with the Massachusetts General Hospital. His positions there were: House Officer, 1900-01; Physician to Out-Patients, 1903-12; Visiting Physician, 1912-35; and member of the Board of Consultation, 1935-41.

His teaching positions at Harvard Medical School were: Assistant in Clinical Medicine, 1905-09; Instructor in Clinical Medicine, 1909-30; Clinical Professor of Medicine 1930-35; Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emeritus, 1935-41.

His society memberships included the Association of American Physicians; the Interurban Clinical Club, of which he was a charter member, and in 1928 President; the American Society for Clinical Investigation; the American Clinical and Climatological Association; the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, of which he was President in 1932; the National Tuberculosis Association, of which he was Vice-President in 1938-39; and the Massachusetts Tuberculosis League, of which he was President in 1928 and later.

He was keenly interested in Public Health, and served on Advisory Committees of the State and City Health Departments. For years he was President of the Board of the Channing Home for women with tuberculosis.

Besides numerous shorter articles, Dr. Lord was author of "Diseases of the Bronchi, Lungs and Pleura," Lea & Febiger, 1915 and 1925; "Pneumonia," Harvard University Press, 1922; "Lobar Pneumonia and Serum Therapy," with Dr. Roderick Heffron, 1936; "Pneumonia and Serum Therapy," with Dr. Roderick Heffron, 1938; and "Chemotherapy and Serum Therapy of Pneumonia" with Drs. Elliott S. Robinson and Roderick Heffron, The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1940. He also wrote for the early editions of Osler's System of Medicine the section on influenza, and with Dr. Walter Jones the chapter on "Diseases of the Pleura."

This record would be incomplete indeed if it failed to allude to his great joy in his family and his keen interest in golf and photography.

Dr. Lord was born in Bangor, Maine, January 16, 1875, and died in Boston November 4, 1941.